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montana committee for the humanities newsletter

Volume 10, No. 3 Summer & Fall, 1984

## Annual Humanities Awards Presented

Three Montana State University scholars have been cited for demonstrating a continuing commitment to the humanities in a context that illuminates our values, history and culture.

Richard Roeder was presented with the award for scholarship, while Lynda and Michael Sexson were recognized for their service to the humanities. The first-ever awards were presented at a banquet during the Montana Myths Conference on May 11, in Helena. The awards consisted of a silver medallion, a certificate, and a check for $1000.

Professors Roeder and Lynda Sexson are members of the History and Philosophy Department, while Michael Sexson is in the English Department. All three were nominated in response to a public call for nominations.

Roeder has written articles and books on topics ranging from taxes to law and history. He has done research on Montana women's lives and work as pioneers, writers, and professionals. His interest in the arts has led him to research the writings of Montana cowboy artist Charles M. Russell; he has worked on the career of Joseph Kinsey

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## Montana Myths Conference

This spring the MCH launched its five-year program to celebrate the state's centennial in 1989 with a two-day training conference for humanities scholars. The conference, called "Montana Myths: Sacred Stories, Sacred Cows," was held in Helena on May 11-12. It was co-sponsored by a state-based group known as Friends of Montana Myths.

The idea behind the conference — the first state-wide conference for humanities scholars in seven years — was to identify and explore major myths about Montana and the west. Featured speakers were John Cawelti, author of **The Six-Gun Mystique** and Professor of English at the University of Kentucky; Gretel Ehrlich, author of "The Solace of Open Spaces," and other articles, a writer, filmmaker and rancher from Shell, Wyoming; and William Kittredge, author of the just-published **We Are Not In This Together** and Professor of English at the University of Montana.

Panelists whose presentations focused on myths about land, landscape and place included Janine Pease-Windy Boy, President of Little Big Horn College; Barbara Cragg, Cultural Geography, University of Oregon; Hugo Tureck,

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## MCH Needs New Members

Five positions are open for membership on the Committee, due to normal term expirations and one resignation. Nominations are due by October 1, 1984 for the five four-year terms that begin January 1, 1985.

Elizabeth Furdell, Political Science professor at the College of Great Falls, has resigned in favor of a position at the University of North Florida. The four MCH members whose terms are expiring are Glen Cameron, Communications and Humanities, Miles Community College; Candace Fleming, IHS/THD Mental Health Program, St. Ignatius; Wayne Larson, Sociology, Montana State University, and Ron Perrin, Political Theory, University of Montana.

Nominations should have a statement describing the nominee's qualifications, a resume of his or her background, two letters of recommendation, and a statement from the nominee indicating willingness to serve. All nominees must be committed to promoting public appreciation for and use of studies in the humanities. Persons may nominate themselves.

As a rule, half the MCH members represent the academic community, and half represent the general public. The Committee also tries to proportion its membership to represent the different regions, ethnic groups, and occupations of the state.

MCH meets four times a year to set policy, to act on grant applications, and to evaluate its programs. Members serve without pay but receive expenses for attending Committee meetings.

Send nominations by October 1, 1984, to MCH, PO Box 8036, Missoula, MT 59807.

# Summer Seminar Leaders Chosen

Four humanities scholars have been chosen by MCH to lead the state's first Summer Seminars for High School Teachers. The scholars are Julie Codell, Associate Professor of Art, University of Montana; Arthur Coffin, Professor of English, Montana State University; Tom Huff, Professor of Philosophy, University of Montana; and Douglas Leonard, Assistant Professor of English, Rocky Mountain College.

**Julie Codell**

Each seminar leader is awarded a stipend of $4,000, and each seminar participant receives $400. The program is modeled after the National Endowment for the Humanities' Summer Seminars for College Teachers. Seminars last four weeks.

**Arthur Coffin**

In Bozeman, Arthur Coffin's seminar will cover the Modernist literature of the last 100 years. Works of this period deal with such themes as anti-heroes, alienation, the search for self-definition, and with the efforts of writers to find appropriate humanistic values to fit these themes. The Modernist movement is the source of much of the fiction and poetry taught in Montana secondary schools.

In Missoula, Julie Codell's seminar is designed to make the point that works of art are more than just the personal expressions of artists' vague inner lives. Using art collections, slides, and literary works, the seminar will focus on art as a problem-solving activity, with emphasis on the social and historical content of works of art.

**Tom Huff**

Tom Huff's seminar will take up problems of law, politics, and democratic theory, with special emphasis on judicial review — the power of the U.S. Supreme Court to invalidate acts of Congress, the President, and states.

Douglas Leonard's seminar participants at Rocky Mountain College will read and discuss poets from the major periods of American literature, with emphasis on Whitman, Dickinson, Frost, and Eliot. The seminar is meant to strengthen teachers' abilities to interpret poetry, and to see how it reflects the culture from which it is derived.

**Douglas Leonard**

Seminar leaders were chosen from a field of 25 scholars who submitted proposals to the Montana Committee for the Humanities last winter. Next year's call for proposals will be announced in October.

## Humanities Awards

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Howard, and has researched the history of black people in Montana. Roeder's master's and doctoral degrees are from the University of Pennsylvania. He has been a research associate for the Montana Legislative Council, a member of the Montana Constitution Revision Commission, and an elected delegate to the Montana Constitution Convention, 1971-1972.

Michael and Lynda Sexson edit the annual journal **CORONA**, a collection of works by creative artists and thinkers in a wide variety of fields. In an era of increased awareness about and use of new technologies, the Sexsons designed and directed "LOGON '83," a national conference focusing on computer technology and human values. Attracting more than 1,000 people from across the country, "LOGON '83" provided background for the development of a projected Technology and Humanities Institute to be held in Bozeman. The Sexsons also planned and directed "Eclipse '79," a celebration and response to the total eclipse of the sun. This event brought together dancers, poets, philosophers, Native American religious leaders, scientists, and mathematicians.

Nomination forms for next year's Awards in the Humanities will be in the mail this fall. We encourage you to watch for them. . . .

### Fetz Is Interim Director

Margaret C. Kingsland, MCH Executive Director, will be on sabbatical leave until September 25th. During her absence, Dr. Gerald Fetz will serve as Interim Director. Jerry has taught at the University of Montana since 1970 where he is currently Professor of German. He has been affiliated with the Montana Committee for the Humanities for several years and was MCH Chair for two terms from 1980 to 1982. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the National Federation of State Humanities Councils. Jerry looks forward to speaking and working more directly with you all during the coming months.

## *Montana Myths . . .*

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rural sociologist and working rancher from Coffee Creek, Montana; and Roger Dunsmore, Professor of Humanities at the University of Montana.

A second panel addressed myths about individuals, families and communities in Montana. Speakers were Bill Lang, Montana Historical Society; Teresa Jordan, author of **Cowgirls: Women of the American West, An Oral History,** and a member of the Creative Writing Program at the University of Montana; Mary Blew, author of **Lambing Out and Other Stories** and professor of English and Dean, Arts and Science, Northern Montana College; and Glen Cameron, Professor of Communications and Humanities, Miles Community College.

In addition, the 80 conference attendees were treated to performances by three humanities scholars. Bill Rossiter, Professor of English at Flathead Valley Community College, entertained with portions of his program "Going Out West to See the Elephant," ably switching from guitar to banjo to autoharp, with an occasional harmonica in between. Greg Keeler, Professor of English at Montana State University, lightened things considerably at the last meal of the conference with his "Myths and Music: The Real Montana as It Really Isn't." Jeanne Eder, Coordinator of Native American Studies at Eastern Montana College, electrified the banquet audience with her dramatic presentation as "Waheenee: Buffalo Bird Woman."

In the training session at the conclusion of the conference, participants offered a variety of suggestions about how to make the concept of myth accessible to the public, and a number of ideas about implementation of the Montana Myths project. MCH staff will be working over the summer with these ideas, and with further developments in the Montana Myths project. Readers' comments, suggestions and advice are welcome.

## Radio Programs Available

"Reflections in Montana" is a highly produced radio series that airs on more than 30 radio stations in Montana and the region. The series focuses on a broad range of ideas, events, and people in the context of the history and heritage of Montana. The first 12 programs are now available at no charge to institutions and persons using cassette services. For information about program contents, please write or call MCH in Missoula.

# Grant Summary

The following grants have been awarded since November 1983:

**An Evening with Yoshi Homma,** sponsored by Northern Montana College. $692.

**Indians of the 80's, sponsored by Indian Career Services, Billings American Indian Council, and Native American Studies, Eastern Montana College. $4,328.**

**Protest and Vision: Martin Luther After 500 Years,** sponsored by the Martin Luther Symposium Committee of Carroll College. $6,687.

**Going Out West to See the Elephant,** sponsored by the Flathead Audubon. $150.

**Agriculture in Montana Schools Task Force Workshop,** sponsored by the Agriculture in Montana Schools Task Force. $6,512.

**Media Conference Focusing on Television and How it Affects, Changes, and Interprets Culture,** sponsored by Montanans for Quality Television. $2,935.

**The Passing of an Era: A Radio Profile of Butte,** sponsored by KUFM, University of Montana. $4,881.

**Men and Women in 1984: The Dream of a Common Language,** sponsored by the MSU Women's Resource Center. $8,810.

**Going Out West to See the Elephant,** sponsored by Flathead Valley Community College. $150.

**Going Out West to See the Elephant,** sponsored by the Mondak Historical Society. $150.

**Standards and Limits for Judicial Decision Making—A Conference on Jurisprudence,** sponsored by the Montana Jurisprudence Committee. $8,849.

**War is Peace in 1984: Political Prophecy, Geopolitics, and Human Values,** sponsored by the College of Great Falls. $4,995.

**Small Towns and Villages: Historical and Cultural Comparisons,** sponsored by the Bozeman Committee on Village Life. $7,861.

**Representative Scientists,** sponsored by Western Montana College. $150.

**Going Out West to See the Elephant,** sponsored by the Creston Boosters Club. $150.

**Libraries and the Humanities, High Tech/High Touch,** sponsored by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library at the University of Montana. $1,950.

**Great Falls Centennial Speakers' Series,** sponsored by the Junior League of Great Falls, Inc. $856.

**The Expression and Transmission of Cultural Values in Children's Literature,** sponsored by Northern Montana College. $4,200.

**Food for the Millions: Patterns of Agriculture in South Asia and the American West,** sponsored by the Consortium for International Issues. $3,460.

**LOGON Video Project,** sponsored by the LOGON Group. $9,940.

**Ethics and Diplomacy: The China Hands' Experience as Lesson and Legacy,** sponsored by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library at the University of Montana. $16,939.

**Why are the Russians so Different?,** sponsored by Flathead Valley Community College. $150.

**Going Out West to See the Elephant,** sponsored by Beta Sigma Phi. $150.

**Celebration of Relationships,** sponsored by the Kalispell AAUW, Hockaday Center for the Arts, FVCC Student Program Development, Inc. $1,532.

**The Legacy of the Great Depression,** sponsored by the University of Montana. $1,330.

**Going Out West to See the Elephant,** sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Deer Lodge. $150.

**Antecedents of the Current Literary Renaissance in Montana,** sponsored by the Friends of the Great Falls Public Library. $150.

**Libby Women's Fair,** sponsored by Lincoln County Family Planning in Libby. $110.

**Reflections in Montana,** sponsored by KUFM, the University of Montana. $9,750.

**The Eye Juggler: Storytelling and the Living Culture of the Montana Indian,** sponsored by Miles Community College's Career Development Program. $150.

**Going Out West to See the Elephant,** sponsored by the Frontier Gateway Museum. $150.

**Wilderness Journal,** sponsored by KCET-TV and Stephen Fisher. $7,500.

**Problem Solving in Literature and Art: From Texture to Social History,** sponsored by the University of Montana's Art Department. $11,200.

**The Supreme Court and the Constitution: The Problem of Judicial Review,** sponsored by the University of Montana Department of Philosophy. $11,200.

**Themes in American Poetry,** sponsored by Rocky Mountain College. $11,200.

**The Montana Committee for the Humanities**
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## Mailing List Corrections

If you know of anyone who would like to be added to our mailing list, or if you receive more than one copy of our newsletter, please notify us. If you would like your name removed from the list, please return the mailing label attached to this newsletter to the MCH.

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Ms. Carolyn Ennis (past Chair)
Professor Gerald Fetz
(Federation Board of Directors)

*Appointed by Governor Schwinden

# *Grant Summary . . .*

*(Continued from Page 3)*

**Modernism: The Role of the Humanist Amid Changing Humanistic Values,** sponsored by Montana State University. $11,200.

**Heartland,** sponsored by the Soroptimist Club of Missoula-South. $75.

**Dramatic Presentations from Homer's "Illiad,"** sponsored by the University of Montana's Department of Foreign Languages and Literature. $650.

**Women and Change in Latin America,** sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Planning Committee. $2,200.

**Montana Committee on the U.S. Constitutional System Planning Meeting,** sponsored by the Montana Committee on the U.S. Constitution. $950.

**Montana Myths: Sacred Stories, Sacred Cows,** sponsored by Friends of Montana Myths. $7,900.

**Architectural Frontiers: Modern Architecture in the American West,** sponsored by the Consortium on Modern Montana Architecture. $9,960.

**Bach in Bozeman: from Musicology to Mathematics,** sponsored by the Bozeman Friends of Bach, an affiliate of the Bozeman Symphony Society. $10,379.

**Oral History of Smokejumping and Smokejumpers,** sponsored by the Smokejumpers Oral History Project. $9,970.

**Field Humanists Grant.** $1,000.

**Thinking Positive About the Negative,** Speakers Bureau grant award to Parents without Partners, Inc., of Kalispell. $550.

**Women and the Family in Prairie and Plains,** Cut Bank Women's Club. $285.

**Your Constitution,** sponsored by the Montana Extension Homemakers Council of Bozeman. $450.

**Oral History Assessment Project,** sponsored by the Montana Oral History Association. $12,133.

**Montana Writers Tapes,** sponsored by the University of Montana English Department. $9,960.

**Vietnam: A Television History Supplement,** sponsored by KUED-TV, Media Services Development, University of Utah. $9,586.

**Red Bluff Program,** sponsored by the Museum of the Rockies, Montana State University. $4,743.

**Eleventh Annual Montana History Conference,** sponsored by Montana Historical Society. $8,025.

**The Montana Chippewa Crees: A Photographic Document of Cultural Survival, 1916-1945,** sponsored by the Native American Studies Program, University of Montana. $8,801.

**Montana's Economic Development as if Women Mattered,** sponsored by Montana Task Force on Women and Economic Development and Bitterroot Educational Resources, Missoula. $1,772.

**Jeannette Rankin—The Woman Who Voted No,** sponsored by Lightbound Productions, Inc., Bozeman. $700.